



What We Do

Circle of Parents® is a growing national network of non-profit organizations and parent leaders that offer anyone in a parenting role the opportunity to participate in weekly group meetings with other parents to exchange ideas, share information, develop and practice new parenting skills, learn about community resources, and give and receive support. Groups are parent-led with the support of a trained group facilitator, are conducted in a confidential and non-judgmental manner, are free of charge and provide developmentally-appropriate children's programs or child care concurrent with the parent group meetings. Developing leadership on the individual, family, community and societal levels is a central theme of the Circle of Parents®. A Responsible Fatherhood program component was added for January 1 - December 31, 2008 for technical assistance and training. This component will be covered during the training. Michigan currently has ten sites, with multiple groups at these sites.

Circle of Parents® utilizes the following standards to guide groups:

- The groups utilize the mutual self-help support model.
- A trained group facilitator and parent leader facilitate the support groups.
- Open groups meet weekly and are offered at no cost to any participant.
- Driven by parent need and feasibility, a no-cost children's program is available; if not possible, then quality childcare is provided.
- The group facilitator, parent leader and other group members are available to one another between group meetings.
- Groups are ongoing, require no intake, and, with few exceptions, are open to all parents.
- Group members are assured of confidentiality in a non-judgmental environment within the limits of the law.
- Community resource information that supports healthy family development is available to all group members.

Parent Leadership

Circle of Parents® participants gain the knowledge and skills to function in meaningful leadership roles and represent a "parent voice" to help shape the direction of their families, programs and communities. Parents and professionals build effective partnerships and share responsibility, expertise and leadership decisions.

By promoting parents as leaders, participants in Circle of Parents® groups are empowered and prepared to take on leadership roles in their families and on the community, state and national levels.

Parent leadership, which is at the heart of Circle of Parents®, enables parents to contribute to the effectiveness and responsiveness of organizations as they participate in family support program and policy development.

Research Based

Focus groups and evaluation indicate that Circle of Parents® participants:

- become empowered to influence other parents and their community;
- feel supported and connected to other parents;

- learn how to parent children as they grow;
- learn about non-violent ways to discipline children and learn more about themselves and how this awareness helps them to become better parents; and
- gain knowledge about meeting family needs from resources and materials that are provided.

Throughout Michigan, Circle of Parents is being used as the catalyst for developing parent leadership and involvement throughout the community. Fully honoring principles of mutual respect, equal contribution and shared leadership, parents become empowered to influence other parents and their community-advocating on behalf of their children and families.

Who should attend?

- Program Managers/Coordinators
- Parent Educators
- Parent Leaders (fathers welcome)

What will attendees learn?

- How to Develop, Implement and Evaluate the Circle of Parents ® Model
- The importance of promoting "parental balance"
- The importance of creating father friendly organizations
- How to use Circle of Parents® Model as a Catalyst for Developing Parent Coalitions
- Group Dynamics
- The Art of Group Facilitation
- Developing Parent Leadership
- Circle of Parent® Group Structure and Operations
- How to Apply Leadership Skills to Local and State-Wide Advocacy

Training Information (Only 30 slots available - Register Early)

- **Where:** , Holiday Inn Lansing West, Lansing, MI
 - Capital Room - In the Conference Center
 - Driving directions, parking, and booking your hotel reservations, information can be obtained from the following link: <http://www.holidayinn.com/lansing-west>
- **When:** Monday, June 9, 2008, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM & Tuesday, June 10, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- **Cost:** Training and materials will be provided to participants at no charge. Breakfast and Lunch is also provided. Participants will be responsible for lodging, and dinner.

Where to Stay:

Holiday Inn Lansing West
 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy
 Lansing, MI 48917
 Phone: (517) 627-3211
 Fax: (517) 627-5240
 Check-in Time: 4:00 pm/Check-out Time: 12:00 pm

The Holiday Inn Lansing West Hotel & Conference Center features 244 well appointed guest rooms with Free High Speed Wireless Internet Access throughout the hotel. It also has over 16,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, to accommodate up to 400 guests. The room rate will be \$65.00 per night, plus taxes.



REGISTRATION FORM

(Monday, June 9, 2008, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM & Tuesday, June 10, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM - Holiday Inn, Lansing West)

Name: _____

Agency/County: _____

Role/Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

THIS SITE WILL HAVE A CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ☐

Your role with the Circle of Parents® Program (check all that apply):

_____ Group Facilitator

_____ Parent Leader

_____ Children's Program Staff/Volunteer

_____ Program Coordinator/Director/Supervisor

_____ Potential Circle of Parents site (Facilitator, Parent Leader, Program Coordinator)

Please send registrations forms to:

Alan Stokes: Children's Trust Fund
235 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 1411
Lansing, MI 48933

Phone: (517) 241-7793

Fax (517) 241-7038

Email: stokesa@michigan.gov

